

Wildlife Habitat and Food Plots

At RedHorse Environmental we have been enhancing, restoring, or developing new wildlife habitat and establishing food plots since the 1970s. We began on our family farm in Venango County (PA) by integrating and managing wildlife habitat into existing farming operations for what we call an Ecocentric farm approach.

Today we are at the leading edge of food plot design, planting, and management. At our current farm we have over 20 acres of food plots that integrate into other landscape features including woodlands, warm season grass habitats, and constructed wetlands.

We have an extensive history in organic/regenerative farming having operated a farrow to fork pork operation throughout the 1990s. We also offer more conventional production approaches depending on our client's preference, goals, and budget.

We bring the latest innovative methods and equipment to provide a wide range of habitat creation and food plot options. With our Great Plains no-till drill we have successfully planted a variety of food plots including single species and multi species stands. The GP 606NT handles it all – corn, soybeans, sorghum, pearl millet, buckwheat, oats, wheat, rye, field peas, squash, pumpkins, clovers, brassicas, and warm season grasses.



Fall Sorghum for Upland Birds



Black Oil Sunflower Food Plot



**DEUTZ-FAHR 5120G and Great Plains 606NT
w/Warm Season Grass Box**



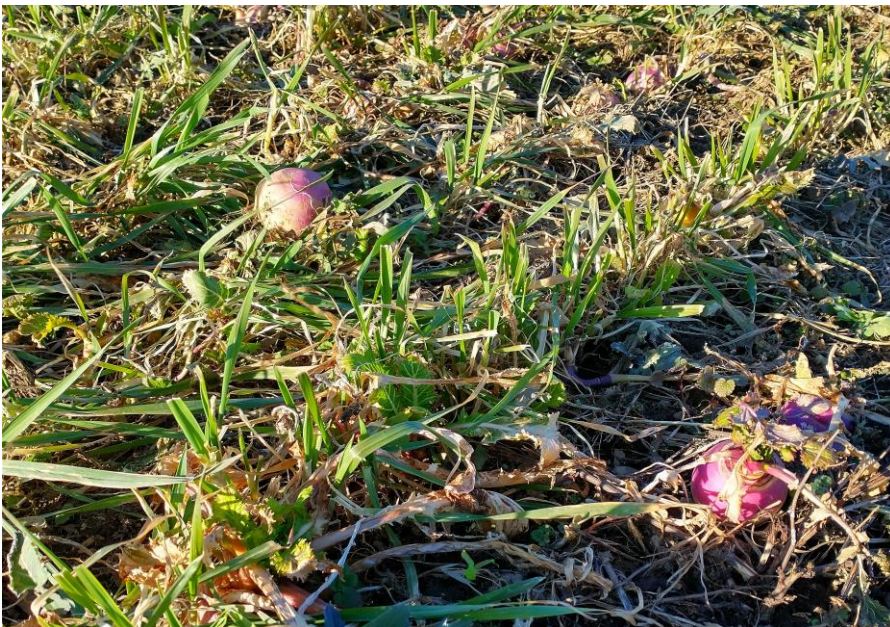
Spring/Summer Foodplot

Whitetail Deer Food Plots

We have been planting food plots for deer on our hunting property and for our clients since 1970s. We have our preferences – often planting soybeans, buckwheat, oats, red and white clover, rape, turnips, winter wheat, and field peas – as solo crops or in a variety of mixes. We typically buy seed in bulk and create our own mixes but also plant proprietary mixes that are purchased by our clients for custom plantings.

We plant crops adapted to local soils and monitor soil fertility to ensure success. We generally follow a three-step process: site mowing, vegetative regrowth to several inches, herbicide spraying, and then no-till drilling with our versatile Great Plains 606NT. Other techniques include frost seeding when conditions are appropriate.

Deer plots are typically planted in early spring to create food resources for lactating does and to support summer growth, mid-August for fall and winter forage (brassicas), and lastly the spring flush (winter annuals) to be available during that critical period prior to native vegetation breaking dormancy. Additionally, perennial plots (clovers) compliment the annual food plots and are maintained throughout the summer and trimmed if needed.



Purple Top Turnips and Winter Wheat in March



Great Plains 606NT Drill



Boom Sprayer



August Buck

Upland Bird Food and Cover Plots

RedHorse Environmental plants a variety of food plots on its PA Game Commission licensed non-commercial hunting property to create upland bird habitat for dog training. These plots are designed to deliver food resources and game cover from late fall through early spring. Some of our favorite plantings are grain sorghum, pearl millet, short season field corn (83 day maturity), Predovik sunflowers, and black oil sunflowers. These crops are drilled on both 7" and 15" rows and generate heavy seed crops and great cover that stands well into March.

We periodically release pen reared birds that utilize these plots but find that they are also used by whitetail deer, turkeys, doves, non-game birds, and black bears. Plots are rotated to eliminated pest problems associated with continuous plantings of a single crop.

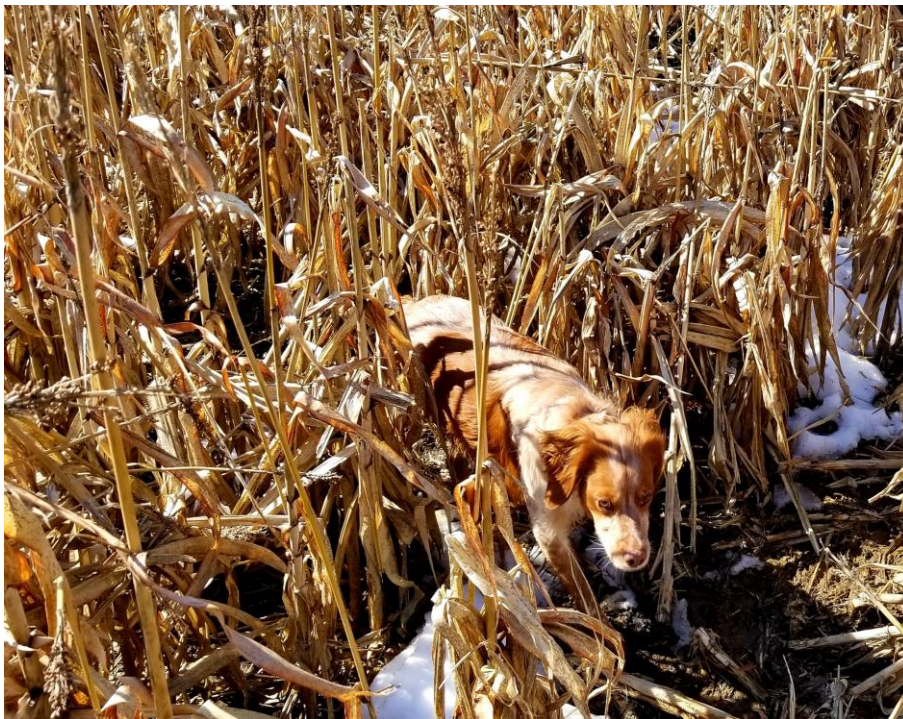
We also plant perennial cover bordering some of our plots in warm season grasses for habitat transitions and on highly erodible land.



Predovik Sunflower Plots



Black Bear in Field Corn Plot



French Brittany in Grain Sorghum in March



Grain Sorghum